

REMARKS:

- 1) Entry of the present Response After Final is proper and is respectfully requested, because this Response merely addresses the issues that were raised for the first time in the Final Office Action. The applicant has not had any earlier opportunity to address these issues. This Response does not make any new amendments and does not raise any new issues that would require further search or consideration.
- 2) Referring to sections 10) and 11) of the Office Action Summary, the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the drawing correction and the corresponding corrected formal drawings that were filed on January 2, 2003.
- 3) The Examiner's attention is directed to a new Information Disclosure Statement that was filed by mail on September 10, 2003. For the Examiner's reference, we are enclosing a copy of that IDS and its accompanying Form PTO-1449, as well as an English abstract or partial translation of each of the cited references. After receiving the complete IDS that was filed by mail, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references, and to return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the Form PTO-1449.
- 4) The Examiner's attention is further directed to the enclosed certified accurate translation of Japanese Priority Application 2000-384528 as filed in Japan on December 18, 2000. The

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translation is accompanied by a cover sheet with a Translator's Certificate stating that the translation is accurate.

- 5) The present U. S. Application claims the priority of Japanese Application 2000-384528 under 35 U.S.C. §119. It is evident that the enclosed English translation of the Japanese Priority Application substantially corresponds with the present U. S. Application as originally filed. Particularly, the Japanese Priority Application fully discloses the presently claimed invention in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112. Thus, the enclosed certified accurate translation of the Japanese Priority Application supports and perfects the claim to the priority date of December 18, 2000. This priority date of December 18, 2000 pre-dates the asserted effective prior art date (April 11, 2001) of U. S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0048975 A1 (Horikoshi et al.). Therefore the Horikoshi et al. Publication is not available as a prior art reference (see e.g. M.P.E.P. §201.15 and 37 C.F.R. §1.55).
- 6) Referring to sections 2 and 4 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the prior art rejections of claims 17 to 26 cannot be maintained, because the Horikoshi et al. Publication is not available as a prior art reference in view of the perfected priority claim as discussed above. Without the Horikoshi et al. reference, the rejections are without basis. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

7) As all outstanding rejections have been overcome, the application should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 17 to 26, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

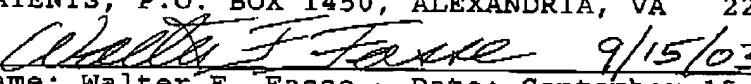
Masaaki HARASAWA et al.
Applicant

WFF:ar/4293
Encls.:
Term Extension Request,
Form PTO-2038;
Certified Translation of
Priority Application with
Translator's Certificate;
Copy of IDS of 09/10/03,
Copy of Form PTO-1449 of 09/10/03,
2 partial English translations,
5 English Abstracts

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 9/15/03
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: September 15, 2003

Docket # 4293
USSN: 10/017,983
A.U.: 2839; Conf# 8381
Ex.: S.V. Nguyen

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Masaaki Harasawa, Saburou Kase and Satoru Kihira

Serial No.: 10/017,983

Filing Date: December 13, 2001

For: Electric Connector

Group Art Unit: 2839

Examiner: NGUYEN, SON V

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATOR

Sir:

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Kobe-shi, Hyogo 657-0067 Japan, hereby certify that my hereto appended

English translation of Japanese Patent Application 2000-384528 is accurate.

Date September 3, 2003

(signature)

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[Name of Document] Patent Application
[Regulation Number] P-JST-41
[Directed to] Commissioner of Patent Office
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[Indication of Fee]**[Prepayment Ledger Number]** 042479**[Amount of Payment]** 21,000 YEN**[List of Attached Articles]****[Name of Article]** Specification 1**[Name of Article]** Drawing 1**[Name of Article]** Abstract 1**[Request of Confirmation]** Yes